

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 AID-20 EB-11 AEC-11 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 /143 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:DWBORN:HME

APPROVED BY T - MR. DONALDSON

AID/ASIA/SA:AFORD

S/S - MR. LUERS

EB/ORF/FSE: FMAU(PARA. 3,4, INFO)

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P 282344Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN INQUIRY ON US POSITION ON ENERGY CRISIS

REF: STATE 15392

SUMMARY: IN VERY CORDIAL 30-MINUTE MEETING INDIAN
AMBASSADOR KAUL RECEIVED BRIEFING ON FEBRUARY 11 ENERGY
CONFERENCE FROM UNDER SECRETARY DONALDSON. KAUL URGED
INDO-US BILATERAL COOPERATION, CONCURRENT WITH MULTILATERAL
EFFORTS, TO MEET ENERGY CRISIS. END SUMMARY

1. INDIAN AMBASSADOR KAUL, ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTER
GONSALVES AND ECON COUNSELOR, G.V. RAMAKRISHNA CALLED
FEBRUARY 22 ON UNDER SECRETARY DONALDSON TO LEARN US VIEW
OF RESULTS OF FEB. 11 ENERGY CONFERENCE AND WHAT USG
ENVISIONED AS NEXT STEPS.

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2. DONALDSON SUMMARIZED RESULTS OF ENERGY CONFERENCE, EMPHASIZED THAT USG CONSCIOUS OF MAGNITUDE OF PROBLEM FOR LDC OIL IMPORTERS, AND NOTED THAT QUESTION OF INVOLVING LDCS IN CONSIDERATION OF PROBLEM WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT ORGANIZING MEETING OF THE COORDINATING GROUP FEBRUARY 25. ONE POSSIBILITY MIGHT BE ASK IBRD EXAMINE EFFECT ON LDCS OF ENERGY PROBLEM AND TO CONVENE MEETING OBTAIN THEIR VIEWS. US WOULD PARTICIPATE IN UN SPECIAL SESSION APRIL 15, BUT OUR FRANK VIEW WAS THAT LEAD-TIME INVOLVED IN UN PROCESS

WAS SO LONG THAT UN ROUTE NOT COMPETITIVE WITH TIMETABLE INITIATED WITH FEBRUARY 11 MEETING. AMB. KAUL AGREED THAT TIME OF ESSENCE AND HOUGHT TWO APPROACHES COULD GO FORWARD IN TANDEM.

3. AMB. KAUL URGED THAT US AND INDIA, IN ADDITION TO PURSUING MULTILATERAL APPROACHES TO PROBLEM, SHOULD ALSO COOPERATE BILATERALLY TO LESSEN IMPACT ENERGY CRISIS. AMB. KAUL SPECIFICALLY CITED OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION, COAL TECHNOLOGY AND FERTILIZER AS AREAS FOR SUCH COOPERATION. KAUL SOUGHT BROADLY DEFINED SET OF ACTIVITIES, NOT LIMITED TO PETROLEUM ALONE, THEREBY AVOIDING APPEARANCE OF INDO-US BILATERAL ACTIVITY DIRECTED AGAINST PRODUCERS. SPECIFICALLY, KAUL SOUGHT USAID LOANS TO PERMIT GOI HIRE US FIRMS TO EXPLORE FOR OFF-SHORE OIL DEPOSITS; HE RESPONDED TO MENTION OF AID'S HISTORIC POLICY AGAINST SUCH USE AID FUNDS WITH COMMENT THAT CRISIS REQUIRED NEW APPROACHES. RAMAKRISHNA NOTED THAT GOI CONVENING APRIL 29-30 TECHNICAL SYMPOSIUM ON COAL GASIFICATION FOR FERTILIZER PRODUCTION TO WHICH USG OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES INVITED. UNDER SECRETARY OFFERED FULL COOPERATION AS APPROPRIATE.

4. ON FERTILIZERS, AMB. KAUL SPECIFICALLY SOUGHT USG ASSISTANCE IN HOLDING SOME FOUR TO FIVE AMERICAN SUPPLIERS TO CONTRACTS SIGNED LAST SUMMER AT THEN GOING PRICE, INVOLVING SOME 125,000 TONS OF FERTILIZERS. US PRIVATE SUPPLIERS APPARENTLY TAKING POSITION THAT FERTILIZER UNOBTAINABLE FROM MANUFACTURERS AT CONTRACTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRICE AND GOI FREE TO SUE FOR BREACH OF CONTRACT. UNDER SECRETARY DID NOT OFFER ANY SPECIFIC ASSISTANCE ON THIS.

5. IN RESPONSE UNDER SECRETARY'S EMPHASIS ON USG INTEREST IN RECEIVING (BOTH DIRECTLY AND IN MULTILATERAL CONTEXTS) GOI IDEAS ON CRISIS, AND SUGGESTED INDO-US BILATERAL RESPONSES TO IT, AMB. KAUL PROMISED PROVIDE BRIEF, FACTUAL NOTE ELABORATING ON ABOVE POINTS. CASEY

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